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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL

Division of Personnel Relations and Safety

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THE WASHINGTON MUNICIPAL THEATRE

There are a number of leading citizens in Washington who are interested in furnishing new performers and writers, especially young people, with an opportunity for full development of their dramatic talents. They have formed a non-profit corporation for the purpose of staging the highest type of dramatic and musical entertainment and to build a theatre worthy of the Nation's capital.

The performers will be selected from Washington's high-school group, children, University students and government employees. One or more persons from the professional theatre are to form the nucleus of the first performances presented by the Theatre.

President Roosevelt in a letter to Commissioner Young said: "It seems to me that the Washington Municipal Theatre will serve a helpful purpose in promoting the cultural life of the National Capital.... Besides offering an opportunity to

government workers, teenage groups and children for developing latent talents by association with professional performers, the wholesome entertainment thus afforded will counteract other and baleful influences which encourage juvenile delinquency".

The plan is to present two musical comedies this season. The campaign goal is \$100,000. The producers and directors will be professionals of outstanding ability and reputation. Each performer will pass a three-fold audition-screening. The first audition for you will be held here at the Department. John Eaton, director of Agriculture Players, will be in charge of this audition which will be held on three evenings in the auditorium, April 3, 4, and 6, at 7:00 p.m. (We made it 7, so you'll have time to get your dinner in the cafeteria.) It will be for actors, dancers (all types), singers (all types--soloists, choral groups), specialty acts. If you wish to audition for the Washington Municipal Theatre come to the auditorium one of the three nights mentioned. If you are a composer, musician, writer, scene designer, backstage worker or usher, you will be called upon later. This is a wonderful opportunity for you who are dramatically inclined so take advantage of it and Good Luck to You.

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS
MAR 22 1945
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



ATTENTION! VICTORY GARDENERS

Gardeners, you have just time to get your tools in order and make plans for your 1945 garden before the day to begin planting comes round. President Roosevelt has urged us all to have Victory Gardens again this year. War Food Administrator Marvin Jones reported that more than 40% of the nation's fresh vegetables were produced in Victory Gardens, last year, and we're asked to equal this mark in 1945. It will help the war effort by supplying more food, by cutting down on shipping and packing; it will save you money since you can grow fresh vegetables for your family at very little cost except the exercise you put in (and that's good for you, too). Also, vegetables right out of the garden are known to have highest food values, so you'll be improving the health of your whole family.

Plan your garden for a long season--have something fresh coming up from early spring till late fall. Be sure to have home-canning plans included in garden plans. Arrangements are being made far in advance for the Department's Garden Harvest Show, in the fall. You'll want to enter the results of your gardening efforts--either fresh or canned, so be prepared. You may win a prize.

For gardening assistance there are two sources we wish to mention.

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BUY WAR BONDS

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

There are too few of us who realize and appreciate all the advantages that are ours as Federal employees unless someone makes a point of telling us. Most of us know that a certain percentage of each salary check goes into a retirement fund, but we just accept the fact without further thought or question until we begin to think of retiring. Then, when we look into retirement benefits, we're surprised to learn that the Federal Government has a much more liberal retirement system than does Social Security or private agencies. Both the scope of coverage and the wideness of options offered are indications of the liberality of the Federal system. The retirement credit which you have built up will be quite valuable to you when you reach retirement age or if before that time you become eligible for disability retirement. Speaking of retirement age--do you realize that your Government allows you to retire at 55 if you have 30 years service or at 62 with 15 years service? You're still young and have years ahead of you in which to simply enjoy living and to do all the wonderful things you've been dreaming of and planning for. (The retirement fund is one of the best savings funds anywhere--it's sure and it draws 4% interest!)

If you have any questions concerning retirement benefits your personnel officer or someone designated by him can answer them.

DO YOU KNOW?

Do you know that blood donations by Department employees have steadily decreased since the big drive held in December? Do you know that casualties have increased since December and that blood plasma is more urgently needed than ever before?

Do you realize there are men who are fighting this war for days in a row without sleep? Sleep isn't important to them--they'll sleep when the battle's over. Now they must fight and win a war.

Are you helping them all you can to win the war? It isn't just their war. It's your war and my war, our war, and we must do all we can to help those boys who are risking their lives, even without sleep, and giving their lives for us. Let each of us see that more boys live to come home because we have made personal trips to the blood donor center to make a personal gift to those boys overseas. Give a pint of blood now and once every eight weeks thereafter. You'll be glad that you've given part of yourself to save the life of someone who has given so much for you. Call your keyman or Miss McFadden, ext. 3281, for an appointment.

GROUP HOSPITALIZATION

Group Hospitalization will be open for new members during the first part of April. The dates vary in the different bureaus, so see your bureau representative early

IN-BETWEEN CLUB

Ladies between 25 and 40, there is a new organization, sponsored by the U.S.O. and the Y.W.C.A., which is especially for you. This group, known as the In-Between Club, is developing an interesting program for the spring in which you will enjoy participating. Join early, while the group is young, so you can enjoy the planning, too.

The second Wednesday of each month, at 8 o'clock, the Club meets at the U.S.O. at 1912 N. Capitol St. for games and community singing. When the evening's over you've had fun and relaxation with congenial people and you're looking forward to the next get-together.

The fourth Sunday of each month at 4 o'clock, an educational and social program is held at the Y.W.C.A. 17th and K Sts., N. W.

There are tentative plans for spring sightseeing excursions and other informal gatherings. Call ext. 3105 to register for this delightful club.

GARDENERS INVITED

Thursday--March 22--5:00 - 5:45 Victory Garden Meeting with Under-Secretary Grover Hill presiding. Timely gardening information and a Dept. film, "Grow Your Own".

COOKING SCHOOL

The Cooking School at the Washington Gas Light Co., 11th and H St., N. W., will be on Tues. nights, beginning March 27, at 6:30 p.m. If you wish to attend come to room 528 Adm. Bldg. to get an admission card.

VICTORY GARDENS (continued from p 2)
Your own Department gets out a number of publications which will be helpful. Two of those which will help you most are Miscellaneous Publications 525 and 538, which may be obtained at the Publications Desk in the Patio of the Administration Bldg.

Mr. J. Morton Franklin, Supervisor of Gardens, is in charge of the Victory Garden Office at 472 Indiana Ave., N. W. This office has a listing of all community areas and chairmen in Washington and the surrounding counties. If you are interested in having a Victory garden out have no available space, call Mr. Franklin's office Na. 0000, ext. 2837 or 2839, and they will refer you to the proper neighborhood chairman to assign you a garden plot. In addition, this office provides a weekly bulletin service beginning on April 1. They will be glad to put you on the mailing list, if you call.
Remember: Garden for Victory
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

For several weeks the Department along with other Government agencies has been conducting a drive for funds for the National Symphony Sustaining Fund. Many of you have given generously and the Department has turned in \$554.46. However, this is several hundred dollars less than the sum contributed by you last year and it looks as if many of you didn't know there's a drive on. If you wish to contribute to this very worthwhile Washington institution see the keyman in your bureau or

your contact officer. The drive will continue until the middle of April.

WANT RIDES

Mrs. Sylvia Kazlow, 908 Prospect Ave., Takoma Park, ext. 4976.
Elaine Gainsburg, 1600 - 16th St., N. W., ext. 2709.

Mrs. T. Keich, 1380 Fort Stevens Drive, N. W., ext. 2068.

WANTS RIDERS

Mr. H. F. Marti, 8630 Old Fork Road Friendly, Maryland, ext. 4338.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

The Public Library's second series of discussions of significant books will be from March 19 to May 23. The groups, all of which meet at 7:30 p.m., are as follows:

Group 1, Central Library, Mon., Charles Baldwin, Leader

Group 2, Central Library, Tues., Stringfellow Barr and Clare Ruppert, Leaders

Group 3, Georgetown Branch, Tues., Scott Buchanan, Leader

Group 4, Petworth Branch, Tues., W. Hobart Little, Leader

Group 5, Mt. Pleasant Branch, Tues., Ruth Graham and Edith Saul, Leaders

Group 6, Central Library, Wed., Iola Scoville, Leader

No special educational qualifications are required but members are expected to attend regularly and to read the books, all of which may be borrowed from the library. To register for any of the groups call Mrs. Steinbarger at the Central Library, Na. 6776.